

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SCA-01 INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

H-03 L-03 CAB-09 FAA-00 EB-11 /054 W

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R 202309Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8074

UNCLAS MEXICO 7114

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, ETRN, MX

SUBJECT: DESTRUCTION PRIVATE AIRPLANE LOCKHEAD LODESTAR,
N-211-W.

REF: UNCLAS MEXICO 6956 SEPTEMBER 14, 1973.

1. INVESTIGATION BY EMBOFF WITH MEXICAN AUTHORITIES REVEALS
SUBJECT AIRCRAFT MADE EMERGENCY LANDING EARLY MORNING HOURS
SEPTEMBER 14, 1973, AT LOCATION APPROXIMATELY 15 MILES DUE NORTH
MEXICO CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. PLANE LANDED IN A LARGE PLAIN
THAT EXTENDS NORTH OF MEXICO CITY AT A SITE AT LEAST THREE
KILOMETERS FROM NEAREST HOUSES. FUSELAGE OF AIRCRAFT COMPLETELY
DESTROYED BY FIRE. WINGS AND ENGINES INTACT WITH NO SIGN OF
FIRE INVOLVING GAS TANKS, FUEL LINES OR ENGINES. EVIDENCE INDICATES
A WHEELS-UP, POWER OFF LANDING POSSIBLY AS RESULT OF FUEL
SHORTAGE. FIRE APPEARS TO HAVE STARTED WITHIN CABIN.

2. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION ADVISED U.S. INSURANCE
INVESTIGATOR, IN PRESENCE OF CONSULAR OFFICER, THAT HE WOULD
BLOCK ANY RECOVERY INSURANCE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS OWNERS CAME
FORWARD WITH EXPLANATION OF WHAT AIRCRAFT WAS DOING IN MEXICO
AND WHAT HAPPENED TO PILOT AND PASSENGERS.

3. EMBASSY CONTACTED FORMER OWNER OF AIRCRAFT, MR. LANDY
TAYLOR OF FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, (TEL. 305-523-5491)
WHO PROVIDED INFO ON LOCATION OF CURRENT OWNER AND PILOT. NEW
OWNER, JOHN PETERS OF MEDIA AVIATION, 175 SOUTH 5TH AVENUE,
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NYC (TEL. 212-691-8245) AND PILOT, LOYD WINGFIELD, PAMPANO

BEACH, FLORIDA, (TEL, 305-974-0285) WERE SUBSEQUENTLY CONTACTED. NEITHER PROVIDED A SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION OF WHAT PLANE WAS DOING IN MEXICO, WHY A FLIGHT PLAN HAD NOT BEEN FILED AND WHAT HAPPENED TO PASSENGERS. PILOT ALSO CLAIMED A FIRE STARTED IN HIS PORT ENGINE WHICH IS CONTRARY TO RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION HERE.

PILOT DID NOT PROVIDE SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION OF WHY HE FAILED TO REPORT TO MEXICAN AUTHORITIES OR HOW HE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES.

4. IT ZQULD APPEAR THAT PILOT AND POSSIBLY OWNER ARE GUILTY OF A NUMBER OF SERIOUS INFRACTIONS OF MEXICAN LAW INCLUDING FAILURE TO REPORT ACCIDENT, FAILURE TO FILE FLIGHT PLAN, ILLEGAL ENTRY AND DEPARTURE AND POSSIBLY SMUGGLING AND ARSON. MANNER IN WHICH AIRCRAFT DEPARTED USA MAY ALSO CONSTITUTE VIOLATION OF US CIVIL AIR REGS.

5. EMBASSY HAS ADVISED OWNER THAT IN HIS OWN BEST INTERESTS HE OR A REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD COME TO MEXICO TO CLEAR UP THE MATTER WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES. MR. PETERS PROMISED TO SEND HIS ATTORNEY, MR. GERBER DERMAN OF HOUSTON, TEXAS.

6. INCIDENT HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY IN MEXICO AND INVESTIGATION IS BEING DIRECTED PERSONALLY BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION. GIVEN THIS AND NUMBER OF SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF MEXICAN LAW AND POSSIBLY US CIVIL AIR REGS AS WELL, EMBASSY REQUESTS INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED BE INVESTIGATED BY APPROPRIATE U.S. AGENCIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MEXICO07114
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730922/aaaaapqn.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: UNCLAS MEXICO 6956 SEPTEMBER 14, 197, 3.
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Oct-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DESTRUCTION PRIVATE AIRPLANE LOCKHEAD LODESTAR, N-211-W.
TAGS: CPRS, ETRN, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005